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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ REPORT NO. TOPIC Merseburg Airfield25X1X EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1C25X1C DATE OF CONTENT 25X1C DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 25 January 195225X1A REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 

REMARKS

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During the period from 15 December 1951 to 7 January 1952, source learned that five of the seven swept-back jet fighters at Merseburg airfield were parked in hangars 1 and 2 during the night. The remaining two were in hangar 3. At dawn, the aircraft in hangars 1 and 2 were towed by a small caterpillar tractor to the eastern end of the taxiway. The jet fighters from hangar 3 were parked at its western end where they remained throughout the day even though flying was conducted by the other aircraft stationed at the field. Only the previously reported five aircraft  flying was conducted only in fair weather. As soon as the weather became hazy, flying was discontinued. The take-offs by the aircraft were not observed. A box-shaped structure on two wheels was observed at the aircraft dispersal area, but source never saw it in operation. During good weather, the conventional aircraft would take off about 6 a.m. They circled over the field at an altitude of about 3,000 meters. After 9 a.m., flying by jet fighters would start. The fighters took off individually but flew in formations of two. Unless flying had to be discontinued because of bad weather, the jet fighters practiced until about 4 p.m. Five jet fighters were usually involved in these flights. Shortly before the jet planes landed three green ground signals were fired from the radio truck at the landing field. The jet fighters also practiced taxiing. \*\*

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\*  Comment. For numbers

\*\*  Comment. This report supplements previous information supplied by the same source and supports the assumption that the new fighter regiment in Merseburg is not yet fully equipped with aircraft. For the time being, the seven MiG-15s observed at the field appear to be the only jet aircraft of the regiment. The report furthermore confirms that the crews of the jet fighters were still in the initial phase of training although they have started flying in box formation.

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CLASSIFICATION 

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